Radio Amateurs of Canada
Radio Amateurs du Canada
NEWS BULLETIN

APRIL 1995

July Marine Radio Rendezvous, Mimico Cruising Club Toronto

Are you a boater interested in Amateur radio? Are you a Amateur radio operator interested in boating? Learn how Amateur radio can make your boating safer and more enjoyable. Join other boating and radio enthusiasts at the Mimico Cruising Club, Toronto on the weekend of July 7. Come with your boat or without. There are no fees to pay and no complicated registration process. This is a first for the Toronto Marine ARC and organizers are confident you will find the weekend informative and good fun.

Even if you are not a licensed ham you can talk with sailors from around the world and join in discussions on boat radio and antenna installations. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about radio installation, operation and maintenance. At this Lake Ontario Marine Radio Rendezvous you will meet the net controllers for the Mississauga Maritime Net and meet sailors who have used ham radio at sea and on The Great Lakes.

Activities begin at 1900 hrs, July 7, 1995 with a barbeque followed by dancing to the "Mimico Jam" jazz band. Discussion groups are organized for Saturday and Sunday. There is a dinner at 1900 hrs on Saturday evening.

Docking at MCC is on a first come first serve basis, rafting may be necessary. There is plenty of room to anchor. If this event interests you contact Tony Wright VA3MER 416 763-3481, or Charles Leggatt VE3CFL, 416 486-6025.

Results of 1994 Canada Winter Contest

Dave Goodwin VE2ZP/VE9CB
RAC HF Contest Manager

RAC's Canada Winter Contest took place on 31 December. It was a great success, with a startling 22% increase in entries. Four trophies were awarded: Bruce B. Sawyer AA6KX beat all Canadian comers to win the single operator plaque; Dave Tucker KA6BIM's 10th place finish was good enough to earn the LU8DQ memorial plaque for foreign entrants; Paul Dunphy VE1UK earned his second single-band plaque for an excellent 20m performance; and the record-smashing crew at VE6RAC (Don Moman VE6JY's station) earned the plaque for the top multi-op entrant. They made almost 1600 contacts, including 1100 with Canadians! Full results will appear in May TCA.

New records were set by the VE6RAC multi-op, Mary VE3YOC on 2m, Ken VE3FIT on 6m, and VE4OV on 160m. Remember to celebrate Canada's birthday with the RAC Canada Day Contest on Saturday 1 July. Watch June TCA for the rules announcement. As the contest falls on a weekend this year, foreign participation should be much higher, doubling the fun.

RAC AGM and Forum, April 23 in Ottawa

The Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) Annual General Meeting will be held beginning at 1300 on Saturday, April 23, 1995 at the Talisman Hotel, 1376 Carling Avenue, Ottawa. Following the AGM, there will be a RAC Forum. All RAC members are encouraged to attend.

RAC NEWS BULLETIN

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News Bulletin Information. The RAC News Bulletin is published monthly except July and August.

The purpose is to circulate Amateur Radio news and information on a timely basis between publishing dates of The Canadian Amateur magazine.

All material in the Bulletin may be reprinted but please credit the Bulletin, the original author, and the original publication if one is given.

Please submit original stories or information to the editor before the 10th of the month of publication.

Publishing date is normally the 15th of each month except July and August. Packet bulletins are released continually throughout the month.

Annual Subscriptions to RAC News Bulletin are available by mailing $10 before September 1. Subscriptions expire every August 31.

The RAC News Bulletin is published and printed by Radio Amateurs of Canada, 614 Norris Court, Unit 6, Kingston, Ont. K7P 2R9.

Help Save W1AW

Chris KD3OA

A recent petition to the FCC asks for changes to the rules concerning one-way bulletins and code practice transmissions below 30 MHz. The petition claims that these transmissions have outlived their usefulness, and that they cause more problems on the HF bands than they are worth.

This petition, if accepted by the FCC, would result in the end of W1AW's decades-old bulletin and Morse code practice transmissions. Thousands of Amateurs have upgraded their code proficiency, and also learned the latest Amateur radio news from these transmissions. Most of the ARRL news that one finds on the packet radio network originated as teleprinter bulletins from W1AW.

If you feel, that a ruling to disallow these transmissions is inappropriate, you should send your comments to the FCC. Here's how to do it. Fire up that word processor or editor on your computer. Start your message by identifying "RM-8626" as the file number you are commenting on. Address your letter to: Secretary, FCC, Washington, DC 20554. State your opinions concisely, and sign your name. Include six copies of your letter in the same envelope.

Ontario Science Centre invites volunteers for Amateur radio display

Alf Hepplestone VE3ALF, is the Station Manager of VE3OSC which is located at the Ontario Science Centre on Don Mills Road, Don Mills, Ontario. This very popular attraction plays host to an estimated 1 million visitors a year.

E3OSC is open 364 days a year between 11:00 and 15:00 hours. Amateurs are invited to take part in station operations. This is an excellent opportunity for VHF licenced operators to try HF operations. All Amateurs are invited to volunteer and participate in operating very modern, regularly updated equipment. The Science Centre aims to increase the opportunities for volunteer involvement at the Centre and to continue developing projects that reflect the needs and interests of the community.

If this interests you contact Alf at the centre. Phone 416 429-4100 or fax 416 429-2934.

Amateur radio and the war in Chechnya

A recent Peterborough ARC bulletin related a story about the war being waged in Chechnya. The Russian Amateur Radio Emergency Service (RARES) are aiding the Russian Red Cross in an effort to locate refugees whose numbers exceed 300,000. In a March report from the area more than 3500 messages had been received from relatives in Russia seeking news of their friends and next of kin in the war area.

The Russian Red Cross has about 20 employees involved in the search for family and friends. They depend on what telephone service exists and a paper filing system, computers are non-existent.

Earlier in the war there were several local stations active in the emergency net, but these stations are now off the air and the whereabouts of the operators are unknown. RARES operators are expecting to establish stations within the war area as soon as conditions permit.

Upcoming in TCA

73, Rob Ludlow, VE3YE
Editor, The Canadian Amateur

The May issue of The Canadian Amateur features a cover story article on a February hamming adventure to the Antarctic by David Adams, VE3HBF. There is also the report of the RAC President to the Annual General Meeting, news and EMC updates, results of the RAC Canada Winter Contest, and three full pages listing coming events for the busy fleamarket and hamfest season over the next six months. All this, plus the usual extensive selection of letters, Silent Keys, regular columns, DX and contest reports, including a complete contest calendar, HF propagation forecasts, packet and VHF/UHF, Club News, YL News, QUA, ARES, Public Service, Section News, This Month in History, bench and homebrewing tips, antenna design, shortwave listening, and the Swap Shop + all in the May issue of The Canadian Amateur, coming to your mailbox this month.

Find VE3JW at the Museum of Science and Technology in Ottawa

Here is how John Moffat VE3NJ described Amateur station VE3JW in his column in the Ottawa Valley MRC Rambler.

At the Museum of Science and Technology, the new communications exhibit is nearing completion. There will be exhibits on naval, air and terrestrial communications themes. Within it the Amateur station VE3JW will be reinstalled. I have seen the layout and it is impressive.

A long sweeping console that can be watched easily by the general public has space for at least two operators communicating on different bands or modes. There is also ample space for other Amateurs present to explain to the public what they are witnessing. A layout like this would be the envy of any seasoned operator.

Several HF and VHF stations, complete with accessories, will grace the operating positions. For antennas there is a VHF vertical, a 80 metre dipole, a HF multiband vertical and a seven element beam.

If operating the station would interest you contact Jerry Wells VE3CDS.

Santa Claus Network reached out and touched many

Organizers and volunteers of the Santa Claus Network in Collingwood, Ontario know the value of their work and are already at work organizing for 1995. This inspiring story occurred during the 1994 net and was reported in the Guelph ARC bulletin.

A small boy was waiting with his father for his turn to talk to Santa. He was listening intently to the voices of Santa and his elves crackling from the speaker of the ham radio on the table. A few minutes later it was his turn. Santa's Amateur helper motioned him to come to the radio and take his turn talking to Santa.

This little five year old was very shy and wasn't sure he really wanted to talk on the radio. As it turned out he didn't say anything to Santa, but Santa talked to him. Santa knew his name and was talking directly to him. No mistaking it, Santa did know him and was talking to him, and him alone. The boy's eyes twinkled and he was grinning from ear to ear.

Too soon it was over and Santa moved on to another child. The ham operator then noticed the little boy tug his dad's sleeve and whisper, "I talked to Santa Daddy."

The Amateur operator noticed tears in the father's eyes as he stooped to hug the boy. The father later explained how the boy had lost his mother a year before and this was only the third time he had spoken since she passed away.

Antique Radio buffs take note

From John VE3AMZ

Antique radio schematics, parts and tubes right back to the 1920s can be found at: Grandpa's Radio Shop, c/o Mr. George Found, 26 Queenston Crescent, Kitchener, Ontario N2B 2V5. Telephone 519 576-2570.

B.C. group forms to coordinate Amateur radio frequencies

A new organization took its first active steps in March. The British Columbia Amateur Radio Coordination Council (BCARCC), representing 15 Amateur clubs was registered in December 1994 to be the means by which Amateur radio clubs and individuals from all parts of the province may co-ordinate their activities for their common benefit.

The press release says the driving force behind the organization is the need to provide a workable structure to ensure that the frequencies used for repeater, packet, link stations and similar applications are co-ordinated and that the limited spectrum is used as effectively as possible. BCARCC will serve as a focal point for gathering and delivering information to its members.

The Group's primary objective is to formalize frequency coordination, ensure the appropriate development of VHF and UHF bands, and work with its Washington State counterpart and Industry Canada to ensure that Amateurs can continue to enjoy the hobby for many more years to come.

The President of the new organization is Bill Tracey VE7QQ. Other Directors include Tom Dunn VE7THO, Bill Earl VE7SQ, Mike Garneau VE7KMG, John Hughes VE7FVZ and Ed Frazer VE7EF.

Lakehead ARC makes major contribution to World Nordic Ski Championships

Not including the hours spent organizing for the Nordic Ski Championships in the Lakehead region this March, the local Lakehead ARC contributed more than 2400 volunteer hours during the 13 day event which organizers believe makes this the single biggest volunteer undertaking in the club's 60 year history. Club members handled net control activities from 0700 to 1730 hours on most days and on at least one day racked up 16 continuous hours of operations.

Attendance during the championships hit almost 64,000. An estimated 2,500 pieces of traffic were handled by 30 radio Amateurs and members of their families. On most days an average of 13 to 15 volunteers worked up to 18 hours to keep the systems running. Radio Accreditation and the Battery Distribution groups were on duty by 0630 and ran until 1830.

The Lakehead Amateurs coordinated communications on low band VHF (46-48 MHz), an 800 MHz trunk system, 400 MHz repeaters and several VHF tie-in radios. Net control was equipped with a fax machine, a two-line phone and a computer system with a laser printer to keep the databases updated daily. In all, 30 different radio frequencies were used by up to 375 Nordic personnel equipped with handheld radios.

RAC

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